



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/511,449
Reply to OA dated August 28, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 7, of the specification to read:

For example, a screen which is constructed so that the left and right ends of an upper-end supporting member and the left and right ends of a supporting frame are connected and supported by means of left and right linking mechanisms consisting of upper-end side arms and supporting-frame side arms, thus making it possible to accomplish the smooth extension and retraction of the linking mechanisms with good stability, and to cause the screen to stand by itself with good stability, has already been proposed as a screen which solves the abovementioned problems (for example, see Fig. 1 of Japanese Patent No. 3243037 (Fig. 1)).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18, of the specification to read:

However, the abovementioned screen disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 3243037 (~~Fig. 1~~) (See Fig. 1 of Japanese Patent No 3243037) has a construction in which the left and right linking mechanisms can be freely extended and retracted independently of each other, and has a construction in which the left and right linking mechanisms are caused to move in linkage with one end [of each linking mechanism] connected to the upper-end supporting member. Accordingly, if the screen is pushed downward by way of the left or right end portion of the upper-end supporting member of the screen in a deployed state, the upper-end supporting member will first drop considerably on the side that is pushed, thus causing this member to assume an inclined attitude, so that the linking mechanism on the side that has dropped is greatly shortened. As a result, a large load is applied only

to the linking mechanism on the shortened side, and this may lead to deformation or damage of the linking mechanism.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 10, of the specification to read:

In the invention of ~~claim 1~~, in cases where the screen is pulled upward (raised) and placed in the use attitude, or in cases where the screen is pushed downward and placed in the accommodated attitude, the linking mechanisms disposed on the left and right extend or retract so that the screen can be supported smoothly and with good stability. Furthermore, this invention makes it possible to provide a self-standing manually operated elevating screen in which (for example) the pushing downward of the right end or left end (with respect to the transverse direction of the screen) of the upper-end supporting member of the screen in the deployed state (use state), or the pulling upward of the right end or left end (with respect to the transverse direction of the screen) of the upper-end supporting member of the screen in the accommodated state, can be checked by the slide members, so that the screen can be favorably used over a long period of time without causing any trouble such as deformation, damage or the like as a result of a large extension or retraction operation of only one of the linking mechanisms as in conventional techniques. Furthermore, since the left and right arms can be caused to swing at the same swinging angle by the connected slide members, the left and right linking mechanisms can always be operated by a determined specified operation, so that the left and right linking mechanisms can be smoothly and stably extended or retracted in a state in which these mechanisms are linked as an integral unit. Moreover, in the present invention, the construction can

be simplified compared to cases in which a large apparatus such as a left-right balancing mechanism or the like is attached in order to cause stable extension and retraction of the left and right linking mechanisms. Accordingly, the present invention is advantageous in that this invention can prevent an increase in the size of the apparatus and an increase in the cost of the apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 18, of the specification to read:

In the invention of ~~claim 2~~, the slide members which are in a free state can be maintained in specified positions by the stopper members when the screen is switched from the use attitude to the accommodated attitude. Accordingly, when the screen is switched from the accommodated attitude to the use attitude, there is no need to adjust the slide members to specified positions, i.e., to make individual positional adjustments of the slide members into a state in which the connected positions of the slide members are on a vertical line that is positioned more or less in the center with respect to the transverse direction of the screen. This is advantageous from the standpoint of use.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 4, of the specification to read:

In the invention of ~~claim 3~~, the stopper members are formed by the attachment members that are used to attach one end of each urging means to the arms; as a result, the number of parts required can be reduced, which is advantageous from the standpoints of cost and assembly.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 9, of the specification to read:

In the invention of ~~claim 4~~, the slide members each consist of two split cases, and the respective split cases are equipped with holding parts that are used to hold (in a manner that allows free rotation) the head parts disposed on both ends of a pin that is used to connect both split cases so that the split cases are free to rotate in relative terms. As a result, the split cases can easily be installed afterward on the arms of the assembled linking mechanisms; moreover, both split cases can be connected in a manner that allows free relative rotation in a state in which there is little frictional resistance. This is advantageous from the standpoint of assembly; moreover, this is also advantageous in that the operating force that is used to raise and lower the screen can be reduced.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 23, of the specification to read:

In the invention of ~~claim 5~~, a screen deployment position regulating member which is used to check the upward movement of at least one of the two slide members attached to the left and right arms by contacting the upper end of this slide member during the deployment of the screen is attached to at least one of the arms, i.e., the left arm or right arm. As a result, the maximum deployment position of the screen can be altered, so that screens of different sizes can be assembled using the same parts, thus making it possible to manufacture screens of different sizes without increasing the number of parts. This is advantageous from the standpoints of manufacture and part control; furthermore, the screen can be manufactured as a screen with a high commercial product

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vale that allows alteration of the use configuration (e.g., viewing in a lowered state or the like).